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**CLOSED: NOVA SCOTIA SCHOOLS**

Protests planned, government to reopen legislature **metroNEWS**



**'We had to make a decision that would protect students'**  
Education Minister **Karen Casey**



**'I feel like the government really turned its back .... on students very directly'**  
**Kenzi Donnelly** of Students for Teachers



**'A lot of (parents) are in a position where they don't have child care'**  
**Kate Ervine**, Nova Scotia Parents for Teachers spokesperson



**'Our government is showing that it will do anything except negotiate with teachers'**  
**Liette Doucet**, N.S. Teachers Union President



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**metr EXCLUSIVE**

## Provincial Mounties focus of complaints



**Alex Quon**  
For Metro | Halifax

An analysis of complaints against RCMP officers has found that in the past five years, Nova Scotia has the fourth highest rate for provinces in Canada and the second most in Atlantic Canada.

The analysis by Metro Halifax was conducted on data obtained under an Access-to-Information request from the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP (CRCC), an agency that reviews the complaints made against RCMP members while they are on duty.

More than 13,000 complaints were reported from Jan. 1, 2011 to Sept. 30, 2016 and included allegations ranging from neglect of duty to oppressive conduct. Detailed information on the allegations in every province was not provided.

According to the analysis, Mounties in Nova Scotia received 762 complaints in the past six years. That's an average rate of 13.43 reports per 100,000 of the province's population.

That places Nova Scotia as having the second highest rate of complaints in Atlantic Canada, and the fourth highest in the country for provinces. Only New Brunswick had a higher rate in Atlantic Canada, with an average rate of 13.83.

The area of the country with the highest rate of complaints was the Yukon, where over the course of six years they had an average rate of 125 complaints against the RCMP per year.

Harold Pfeleiderer, a spokesperson for the RCMP, did not comment on the specifics of this article's analysis.

"The CRCC is independent from the RCMP and since you cite CRCC material we would suggest you begin your research there," Pfeleiderer wrote in an email.

Metro's analysis indicates that even though the number of complaints has shrunk year by year in every province, very few are ever proven.

Only in 2011, and the nine months of data available for 2016, did the RCMP substantiate more than five per cent of the claims made against its officers. On average 64 per cent of the allegations, or 8398, went unsubstantiated.



Metro Halifax analyzed data on complaints against RCMP officers in Nova Scotia relative to other regions. METRO FILE



**MEMORIAL REMEMBERING THE HALIFAX EXPLOSION** Halifax Regional Fire and Police officers stand at attention last year at Fort Needham Memorial Park at the start of a memorial ceremony to mark the Halifax Explosion. The 99th Halifax Explosion Memorial Service runs on Tuesday from 8:55 to 9:20 a.m. at the park. JEFF HARPER/METRO

## City talks housing

**DEVELOPMENT**

### Staff suggests affordable and accessible shelter targets



**Zane Woodford**  
Metro | Halifax

Two staff reports will be in front of Halifax regional council this week to create more affordable housing in the municipality.

The first of the two reports coming to council on Tuesday recommends approving in principle the five-year affordable housing targets from the Housing and Homelessness Partnership — a collaboration between the municipality, the province, the United Way, and six other partners. That report also recommends the municipality ask the province for the ability to implement inclusionary housing in the municipality.

The second of the two reports recommends using the powers the municipality already has to create more afford-

able housing. It recommends creating an administrative order to develop an incentive or bonus zoning program to entice developers.

"A density bonus is an increase in built area in exchange for public amenities and/or benefits that contribute to the livability and proper planning of the neighbourhood affected by the resulting increase in density," reads the staff report.

The municipality already uses density bonusing to give developers an incentive to create more parking spaces, or to employ more sustainable

building practices.

This proposal would give developers an incentive to create two-bedroom and larger units for low and middle income households — at 30 and 40 per cent below market value, respectively.

The developer would have to build at least one affordable unit, use 15 per cent of the bonus area achieved for affordable housing and the housing would have to remain affordable for 25 years. A developer could also pay the municipality in lieu of creating the affordable housing.

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

## Sidewalk snow-clearing on table

The new Halifax council will discuss sidewalk snow-clearing for the second time in the councillors' short stint together.

Coun. Shawn Cleary will ask Tuesday for a staff report "that analyzes the cost and benefits of clearing sidewalks to bare concrete, comparing the options of contracting out these services and providing the service in-house."

Cleary told Metro ahead of a report to council recommending

**“It can't stay the way it is. It has to get better.”**

Coun. Shawn Cleary

incremental changes to the way sidewalk snow clearing contracts are doled out that he believes the system needs a com-

plete overhaul.

"If we're going to have this service, we need to have it so that it actually does something," he said.

He said most people he talked to during the campaign wanted to get rid of it and go back to shovelling their own sidewalks, but "there is a substantial community out there that wants to keep it, but it can't stay the way it is. It has to get better."

ZANE WOODFORD/METRO HALIFAX



**A city sidewalk gets cleared after some big snowfall in March 2015.**

JEFF HARPER/METRO



# The next-door neighbour who offers next-level support

## OUTREACH

**Lending help to newcomers adjusting to life in Canada**



**Yvette d'Entremont**  
Metro | Halifax

When Lori Ward began volunteering with the Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia (ISANS), she couldn't have predicted her role would put her front and centre for a baby delivery.

The Halifax resident began working with the organization's Community Connections Program about two years ago. The program matches a family of new Canadians with a volunteer who helps them integrate into the community.

"(Lori) has provided support and information about living in Canada, practised conversational English and engaged them (the family) in several community activities," said ISANS volunteer program coordinator Denise Scott.

Ward was placed with a family originally from Sudan. They're now counted among her good friends, which is why she doesn't consider what she does volunteering and was reluctant to be dubbed a Halifax Hero.

"Often people (like immigrants or refugees) have left everyone. And it can be a very cold and difficult place if you don't have somebody here as support, and not somebody



**Lori Ward is a volunteer with the Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia. She helps families integrate into their new home.** JEFF HARPER/METRO

that's required to be your support, but somebody that wants to be your support," Ward said.

"It's a much different experience from sitting in a waiting room waiting for a service to just phoning somebody up and saying 'What does this mean?'"

Ward meets with the family of five on average once a week, sometimes more often. They often join her, her partner, her step-children and her friends.

She has introduced them to trick or treating, skating, apple picking, beaches, Christmas dinner and a variety of other ac-



**I had phoned ISANS afterwards and said we can rack this one up to extreme volunteerism.**

Lori Ward, on helping deliver a nearby resident's baby in her living room

tivities.

But the moment that sticks in her mind occurred on Oct. 20, 2015.

Ward had arrived at the family's home with Halloween costumes for the two children. It was going to be their first time trick or treating, and they

were excited.

Their mother, who was nine months pregnant at the time, was experiencing a lot of discomfort.

"She is quite a stoic lady and at one point I said to her husband 'I think maybe we should phone Fatima (their neighbour)

and we might want to get her to the hospital because I think the baby is coming now,'" Ward recalled.

While Ward came back from bringing her car up to the door, the neighbour had arrived and so had the baby.

"Fatima and I were on 911 and the two of us were talking and they (911 dispatch) were saying 'OK, you have to clamp the umbilical cord,' and we looked at each other and we were like 'With what?'" she recalled.

"At one point I was literally clamping the umbilical cord

## + HELP PICK A HERO

### Nominate someone

Each week, we will profile an unsung volunteer hero in our community as part of Halifax Heroes. To nominate someone, email philip.croucher@metronews.ca, Metro Halifax's managing editor, or Tweet @metrohalifax using the hashtag #HalifaxHeroes

with my fingers as we scrambled to find something to tie the umbilical cord off, which ended up being yo-yo string. It was remarkably calm. Her other two children had both been born in refugee camps, so the living room wasn't crazy."

Ward joked that being a farm girl meant the experience was unique, but not completely out of her realm.

"I had phoned ISANS afterwards and said we can rack this one up to extreme volunteerism," she joked.

Ward is employed in the non-profit sector and does a fair bit of event volunteering beyond her work day. She expects the family to continue to be part of her life.

"I think as the children get older they will have different needs. I have visions of schlepping kids to soccer games at some point in the not too distant future," she joked.

"People are always going to say that they have no time, but you have time to be a good neighbour. You have time to be a good friend."

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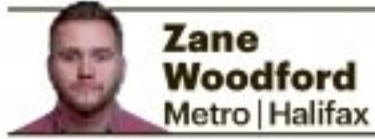




# Teachers' lockout draws reaction

## CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

### Protests planned as province shuts down schools



**Zane Woodford**  
Metro | Halifax

Parents and students alike are taking to the streets this week to protest the government's closure of Nova Scotia's schools.

The province announced the unconventional move on Saturday, a response to work-to-rule job action by the Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU) that was to start on Monday. The government said that it could not ensure students' safety during the action.

"I was so incredibly disappointed and heartbroken, honestly," Kenzi Donnelly of Students for Teachers said on Sunday. "I feel like the government really turned its back, not only on teachers now, but on students very directly."

The government will reopen



Students from Citadel High School protest outside the legislature in Halifax on Friday.

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

its session of the legislature to introduce a bill imposing a contract on the teachers union at 10 a.m. on Monday, and Donnelly's group plans to be at the legislature at 9 a.m.

"We'll be chanting, we'll have posters outside the legislature while MLAs are inside introducing this very unconstitutional bill," she said.

"We all have the chance here

to stand up for what's right, to use our voices and be heard as the students of this province that are being directly affected now."

Later in the day at 3 p.m.,

We feel really betrayed and have some grave concerns with where this government is willing to take us and the fact that they're willing to use our children as pawns in the game that they're choosing to play.

Kate Ervine

the group Nova Scotia Parents for Teachers is holding a rally at Grand Parade then marching down to the legislature.

"Right now a lot of parents are just scrambling," group spokesperson Kate Ervine said on Sunday. "They're in shock ... and because they weren't given any notice, a lot of them are in a position where they don't have child care."

She said "no one really anticipated" the government's move on Saturday, and many parents who had been planning for a strike by teachers had abandoned plans when NSTU announced work-to-rule action.

Ervine said she doesn't think student safety is a "genuine concern of the government."

"If you look around this

country, work-to-rule is something that happens frequently enough. It's happened in Ontario with the teachers, it's happened in British Columbia, and safety has never been an issue. No children have been hurt. Our teachers and our principles, they have our children's safety as a number one priority," she said.

"I think they're being disingenuous. I think they're losing the public trust here because there's no evidence if you look around where this is being done that this is a safety issue."

Both Ervine's and Donnelly's groups will be meeting to plan more action for the rest of the week, and Donnelly said she and her fellow students "don't want to put these days to waste."

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## Public schools be closed for up to a week: Minister

### + LEGISLATURE

Opposition leader Jamie Baillie said in a tweet Saturday that the Conservative party would "soundly reject" the proposed legislation and fight for meaningful classroom reform.

NDP leader Gary Burrill said in a statement following the province's announcement that the Liberals' approach "undermines" democracy and public education.



**Jamie Baillie**  
METRO FILE

Nova Scotia's education minister expects public schools to be closed for up to a week starting Monday, depending on the passage of a bill that would impose a contract on the union representing 9,300 educators in the province.

Karen Casey said Sunday that she recognizes the school closures are an "inconvenience" but concerns for students' safety have to take precedence, given what she says are the risks posed by the Nova Scotia Teachers Union's work-to-rule job action.

"There was no superintendent in this province who could say to us, 'We can guarantee that the child will be safe,'" said Casey.

"I knew that they were nervous, I was nervous. We had to make a decision that would protect students."

Casey announced the school closures on Saturday, sending parents scrambling to find childcare with less than 48 hours notice. She compared the situation to a "storm day," suggesting school boards provide little more than a few hours notice when the roads are deemed unsafe for travel.

Parents received "as much notice as could possibly be given," Casey said in an inter-

view, after the provincial government reviewed the risk assessments of eight superintendents regarding the job action proposed by the NSTU.

After failed contract negotiations with the provin-

cial government, the NSTU directed its members to do the minimum amount of work required under the current agreement, including arriving at school 20 minutes before classes begin and leaving 20 minutes after they end.

NSTU President Liette Doucet said in a statement Saturday that if the provincial government were concerned about students' safety, it would have let students go to school where teachers would have been ready to teach.

"With this step, our government is showing that it will do anything except negotiate with teachers," said Doucet. "Instead of negotiating with teachers in good faith, this government has decided to take away their collective rights and impose a contract ... one that doesn't address the core problems with our education system."

Community groups and businesses including the Canada Games Centre, the Boys and Girls Club of Truro and Atlantic Cirque have offered programs for students, while The Old Triangle Irish Ale-house is providing free lunch for kids.

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## COLLECTIBLES

## YouTube sensation has new bobblehead

You've heard his weather forecasts, you've checked out his dancing, and now you can see Frankie MacDonald in a kilt.

The third edition bobblehead, called the 'Cape Breton edition' and featuring the amateur weatherman and Internet sensation adorned in a traditional MacDonald family tartan kilt, is now in production mode with the company that makes them, indicating the popular figurines should be ready to be shipped out in time for Christmas.

"I like them a lot, I don't have a kilt, but I like it a lot and because I am a MacDonald I have a MacDonald family kilt," said the affable resident of Whitney Pier, who lives with autism. He is known all over the world, for the enthusiastic weather reports and dance routines he frequently posts on his YouTube channel that has garnered more almost

22 million views over the past five years.

His first bobblehead went on the market a year ago and featured Frankie clad in a T-shirt adorned with his signature phrase, "Be Prepared". The second edition figurine, with Frankie wearing a winter coat, came out earlier this year. Both have long since sold out. TC MEDIA



Frankie MacDonald. TC MEDIA

## POLICE

## Pair charged after cab driver's assault

A man and a woman from Dartmouth will face multiple charges after allegedly attempting to avoid paying a taxi fare by spraying the driver with a sensory irritant.

Police responded to the incident in the 100 block of Pincrest Drive at 10:25 p.m. Friday and immediately began searching for the two suspects.

The 23-year-old male suspect was spotted in the area and attempted to flee from police on foot before he was arrested. A

short while later, the 19-year-old female suspect was found in the same area.

The man will face charges of possession of a weapon, assault with a weapon, fraud by fares (taxi) and breach of court orders. He will appear in Dartmouth provincial court on Monday.

The 19-year-old woman will face fraud by fares (taxi) charge and appear in court at a later date.

METRO



Jonathan Blagdon delivers a kick while competing in the taekwondo tournament this past weekend. ALEX QUON/FOR METRO

# Building confidence through martial arts

## ATHLETICS

## Tournament for people with special needs first of its kind



Alex Quon  
For Metro | Halifax

Martial artists with special needs

had their first taste of gold this weekend as they competed in a Taekwondo tournament with their own division — the first event of its kind in Atlantic Canada.

It's the result of a yearlong project by Robert Carr to give Halifax's special needs community an opportunity to experience the Korean martial art he's loved for the past 30 years.

"Outside of the Special Olympics, there's not much that is offered for students of special needs," Carr said. "[Taekwondo] gives a social opportunity to the students that is structured."

Carr says the program has been very successful. Since he started teaching dedicated classes to special needs students in November 2015, his class has grown

16

The number of students competing in Robert Carr's special needs taekwondo division.

from six students to 16.

For Jonathan Blagdon, one of Carr's first special needs students, it's hard not to see the joy in his face as he performs a high kick or breaks a plastic board.

But Blagdon says that his favourite part of the sport is the traditional bow that he performs during his taekwondo classes before and after he competes.

"It's to show the proper respect when I'm bowing to the masters," he says.

Discipline, athletics and a sense of belonging are the central tenants at Carr's taekwondo school, and they're something he's seen develop in all of his students. He says those principles are part of what makes the sport so beneficial to those with special needs.

"They get to build their confidence from all this as they start seeing themselves accomplish things in taekwondo," he said. "At first they come in and they may be withdrawn, but now a lot of the students are a lot more open, they are more confident."

For Blagdon, who ended the day with four medals, there is only one word that describes his experiences as a yellow belt under Carr.

"Awesome," he said.

## WINDSOR, N.S.

## Backyard hens may soon be allowed

Chickens may be coming home to roost in Windsor if there's enough public support.

Windsor's planning department wants to hear from citizens to determine if they'd like to see changes made to the bylaw to allow for some laying hens.

Devin Lake, the town's planner, is collecting feedback until Dec. 9.

Lake says feedback has so far been relatively positive to changing the bylaw to allow for egg-laying hens.

"We received a request to make a bylaw amendment to allow laying hens on residential properties," Lake said. "To inform our report we've put out a call for feedback."

Lake said this process is still in a very preliminary stage as a staff report hasn't been completed yet.

"I've gotten a decent amount of feedback already," he said. "What I've seen thus far has been mostly positive."

The report will be submitted to the planning and advisory

committee, which will then submit the report to Windsor council, who will vote on whether or not to change the bylaw.

TC MEDIA

### OTHER TOWNS

Devin Lake said several jurisdictions across Nova Scotia already allow laying hens, including Wolfville and Truro.



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# Right-wing extremism exists in Canada

But Canadian values and laws make it difficult for people similar to U.S.-based white nationalists to unite north of the border.

KRISTEN THOMPSON FOR METRO

The morning after Donald Trump won the U.S. presidential election, many Canadians took to social media to express dismay, mixed with and a hefty dose of smugness. "Thankful to live in Canada" people wrote. "Good luck, 'Merica."

Almost as quickly, hate crimes began to be noticed on this side of the border. To suggest these were the work of trolls ignores the reality that right-wing extremism already existed here.

The reality is that roots of the right-wing movement in Canada can be traced back more than a century. Trump's win has simply given legitimacy to those who already held racist, homophobic and sexist beliefs. People are calling it "the Trump effect" — the idea that his rhetoric is emboldening racists in the U.S., and here at home.

"The Trump election has brought these seedy characters out of the shadows," says Barbara Perry, a professor in the faculty of Social Science and Humanities at the University of Ontario

Institute of Technology, who specializes in hate crime.

## CANADA VS. THE U.S.

The far-right in the U.S. and in Canada share many of the same core values: They tend to believe the "white" way is under attack, are usually anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim, and hold homophobic and misogynistic beliefs.

Those who subscribe to the American far right in particular also tend to be highly nationalistic, suspicious of government, and passionate about individual liberties such as the right to own guns.

The Canadian context is a little different, according to Ryan Scrivens, a PhD student at Simon Fraser University who studies criminology and right wing extremism. For one, there is less emphasis on gun rights and survivalism. And the far-right network on this side of the border is less organized, and suffers from discord and infighting.

## WHAT KEEPS THEM FROM ORGANIZING



This poster found in Toronto recently caused outrage across the country. TWITTER.COM

Canada's history is different from that of the U.S., and the path we carved out for ourselves has led to a relatively tolerant society that celebrates diversity. This set of values makes it hard for extremism to take root here, so say our experts.

When talking about "the seething racial tensions and xenophobia, I'd have to say we

are far off that boiling point," says Arne Kislenko, Associate Professor of History at Ryerson University, and an instructor in the International Relations Program at the University of Toronto.

"Canada is no paradise, and we have many problems of our own, including those related to discrimination and racism. But

we have, I think, built a comparably more harmonious, open, and liberal society that stands fundamentally opposed to the kind of divisions we have seen exposed in the U.S."

## WE HAVE DIFFERENT LAWS

If racist sentiment flourishes in an environment where it's not challenged, then perhaps our

hate laws — and the U.S.' lack thereof — play a key role in that.

"White supremacists exist in Canada, but it's illegal to draw swastikas on the side of synagogues," says Ayesha S. Chaudhry, Associate Professor of Islamic Studies and Gender Studies at UBC.

## BUT WE'RE NOT PERFECT

"This is a wake up call for all of us not to tolerate injustice in our communities," says Chaudhry. "We really need think about the way that we systematically (condone) inequality in our justice system. The fact that we have a higher incarceration rate (for certain groups) means we are structurally discriminating against them, so it's important for Canadians to come together and look at this seriously."

Chaudhry adds that these groups thrive in an environment that doesn't acknowledge or stand up against them, and the media has a responsibility to keep this conversation alive, and interrogate people who espouse views that reflect intolerance.

## Ralliers call for Alberta premier to be locked up

Federal Conservative leadership hopeful Chris Alexander says he didn't stop a crowd calling for Alberta Premier Rachel Notley to be locked up because politicians need to listen to constituents.

The former immigration minister was speaking at a rally against the provincial NDP's

planned carbon tax Saturday when protesters began the "Lock her up" chant popularized during Donald Trump's campaign.

"I totally disapprove of that particular chant. I don't think it's fair. I don't think it's the right thing to say at a rally or

elsewhere, and that's why I didn't join it," Alexander said Sunday.

The Edmonton rally was organized by Rebel Media, an online news and right-wing opinion outlet, and video of the incident was posted on Twitter by the website's Alberta bureau

chief Sheila Gunn Reid.

The video shows the ralliers start by chanting "Vote her out," but as they grow louder, the message changes.

As they chant "Lock her up," Alexander smiles and appears to gesture in time with the chant, nodding along.

Someone can be heard shouting, "That's enough! That's enough!" in the background, and as Alexander smiles and nods.

At no point in the video does Alexander stop the protesters or say anything about their chant.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Tory leadership candidate Chris Alexander. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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# Feds block Dakota Access pipeline

## STANDING ROCK

### North Dakota leaders say the decision sends 'chilling signal'

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said Sunday that it won't grant an easement for the Dakota Access oil pipeline in southern North Dakota, handing a victory to the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and its supporters, who argued the project would threaten a water source and cultural sites.

North Dakota's leaders criticized the decision, with Gov. Jack Dalrymple calling it a "serious mistake" that "prolongs the dangerous situation" of having several hundred protesters who are camped out on federal land during cold, wintry weather. U.S. Rep. Kevin Cramer said it's a "very chilling signal" for the future of infrastructure in the United States.

The four-state, \$3.8-billion project is largely complete except for the now-blocked segment underneath Lake



Activists celebrate at Oceti Sakowin Camp on the edge of the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation on Sunday outside Cannon Ball, North Dakota, after the Army Corps of Engineers told Standing Rock Sioux Chairman Archambault Sunday that the current route for the Dakota Access pipeline will be denied. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Oahe, a Missouri River reservoir. Assistant Secretary for Civil Works Jo-Ellen Darcy said that her decision was based on the need to "explore alternate routes."

"Although we have had

continuing discussion and exchanges of new information with the Standing Rock Sioux and Dakota Access, it's clear that there's more work to do," Darcy said. "The best way to complete that work

... is to explore alternate routes."

The company constructing the pipeline, Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners, had said it was unwilling to re-route the project. It had no

comment Sunday.

Morton County Sheriff Kyle Kirchmeier, whose department has done much of the policing for the protests, said that "local law enforcement does not have an opinion"



**It's clear that there's more work to do.**

Jo-Ellen Darcy

on the easement and that his department will continue to "enforce the law."

U.S. Secretary for the Interior Sally Jewell said in a statement that the Corps' "thoughtful approach ... ensures that there will be an in-depth evaluation of alternative routes for the pipeline and a closer look at potential impacts."

Standing Rock Sioux tribal chairman Dave Archambault didn't immediately respond to messages left seeking comment.

The federal government has ordered people to leave the Oceti Sakowin, or Seven Council Fires, encampment on Army Corps of Engineers' land by Monday. But demonstrators say they're prepared to stay, and authorities say they won't forcibly remove them. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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## OAKLAND

### Dozens die in warehouse fire

The death toll from a fire that tore through a warehouse hosting a late-night dance party in Oakland climbed to 33 on Sunday as firefighters painstakingly combed through rubble for others believed to still be missing.

Less than half of the charred remains of the partly collapsed structure had been searched, and crews clearing debris were expected to find more bodies as they advanced, Alameda County Sheriff's Sgt. Ray Kelly said.

Officials said they have identified seven people who were killed.

Among them is Donna Kellogg, according to her father, Keith Slocum. He declined additional comment.

Kelly said those killed range in age from teenagers to 30-plus years old.

Anxious family members who feared the worst gathered at the



Firefighters work to clear the debris from a doorway following an overnight fire that claimed the lives of at least 33 people on Saturday at a warehouse in Oakland. GETTY IMAGES

sheriff's office to await word on their loved ones. They were told they may have to provide DNA samples to help identify remains.

The building known as the "Ghost Ship" had been carved into artist studios and was an illegal home for a rotating cast of a dozen or more people, according to former denizens who

said it was a cluttered death trap with few exits, piles of wood and a mess of snaking electric cords.

"If you were going there for a party, you wouldn't be aware of the maze that you have to go through to get out," said Danielle Boudreaux, a former friend of the couple who ran the warehouse. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## ITALIAN PREMIER LOSES BIG REFERENDUM

Italian Premier Matteo Renzi says he is resigning after a stinging defeat on a constitutional reforms referendum that he staked his premiership on. The populist 5-Star Movement says it's

poised to govern Italy. The Movement, led by comic Beppe Grillo, spearheaded the winning "No"-vote campaign in a referendum on constitutional reforms.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS







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# Gift of financial well-being

## HOLIDAY

### Retailers make it easier to bestow things of lasting value

Instead of the latest toy or gadget, some people are trying to give their loved ones more financial security this holiday season.

While it's long been possible to hand out cash, buy stock or contribute to college savings plans, financial institutions and retailers are making it easier to bestow a gift with lasting value.

Among them is Stockpile, a company in the U.S. that sells gift cards that can be redeemed for stock, which is rolling its products out to more than 14,000 stores this holiday season after seeing success at other retailers. College savings plan administrators, which see contributions peak at the holidays, have been adding new ways to donate.

Financial gifts can be tricky, though — givers need to be aware of the tax and social implications.

Ann Coulsen, an assistant professor at Kansas State's Institute of Personal Financial Planning, called such gifts a "wonderful and practical idea." But a recipient who wants something "now" might not appreciate it, she said. It may take some explanation of how stocks or savings plans work. And if money causes resentment within a family, it may not be worth it.

Here's a look at the ins and outs of some popular financial gifts:

## CASH

Cash is easy to get and easy to give, but it doesn't build value the way other options do. And for a large gift, be aware of the tax rules.

Giving a small amount of money each year is a common estate planning tool, but gifts from one person to another may be needed to be reported by the giver on their taxes and may be subject to gift and estate taxes.

You may want to consider taking that cash and putting it in mutual fund or other longer-term investment.

## COLLEGE SAVINGS

A popular suggestion by financial planners for gifts to young children is contributing to a college savings plan.

College savings plans may grow tax-free, and withdrawals for educational expenses may also be untaxed. The giver may get a tax break as well. To give you either need to establish a savings plan or contribute to an existing one, which requires knowing a few personal details. There are also third-party options that require less legwork.

## STUDENT LOAN PAYMENTS

The average debt at

**Cash is easy to give, but it doesn't build value the way other options do.** ISTOCK



graduation for a bachelor's degree was \$35,000 US last year, so a worthwhile gift for many young people may be helping pay that down. A check will suffice or you can pay the lender directly.

## STOCK

Giving stock is a way to encourage an interest in investing over the long term. The giver may avoid the capital gain consequences of cashing in the shares themselves. But the tax implications for the recipient are tricky depending on their age, the value of the stock and more — so it may be worth consulting a professional.

In the United States, people without brokerage accounts or those who want to start small can even buy stock at the check-out line. Stockpile, which is sold in about 40 retail chains like Target, Safeway and Kroger, allows someone to buy a gift card for a dollar amount worth of stock, rather than the price for a share. Purchases can be as small as \$1. Putting it in gift-card form makes it easier to give stock as a gift, says Dan Schatt of Stockpile.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## ANIMAL HEALTH

### Cattle undergo TB tests

More than 22,000 cattle at farms in Alberta and Saskatchewan are quarantined due to bovine tuberculosis, causing hardship for ranchers and millions in compensation payments and other costs.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is testing cattle to determine the extent of the outbreak and the source of the contagious bacterial infection. So far six cattle have tested positive for bovine TB, all from one infected herd. Dr. Harpreet Kochhar, the agency's chief veterinary officer, says generally bovine TB does not pose a threat to the public.

Canada has been officially free of the disease since the 1920s, but has had a few cases from time to time. The U.S. is currently dealing with some bovine TB cases. Maintaining the TB-free status allows Canada to reassure trading partners and ensures Canadian beef producers can continue to export their products to multiple countries.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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## URBAN ETIQUETTE ELLEN VANSTONE



### THE QUESTION I want to buy an expensive Christmas gift for the person I've just started dating. Am I being too forward?

Dear Ellen,  
What is the etiquette for buying Christmas presents when you've just started dating someone? I met a guy a week ago, and I already know exactly what to get him: a Low-Temperature Stirling Engine Kit from Lee Valley Tools. I don't know what it is, but he thought it was pretty cool, so I ordered one for him. But now I'm worried it might seem too forward? What do you think?

Signed,  
Jenny

Dear Jenny,  
I think this is a very lucky guy because I looked up the Low-Temperature Stirling Engine Kit, and it does look cool, though I can't tell if it makes tea or runs on tea. For \$189 plus tax, I'm thinking it should maybe do both.

But you're right. It could seem forward if he's not thinking of you as a serious romantic partner/investment at this point. Maybe not as forward as a box of sex toys from your local love shop. But still problematic if he shows up empty-handed or (worse) with a cheap, thoughtless, last-minute chocolate orange from the drugstore.

Part of me loves the idea of giving him the cool, expensive engine kit, because I totally relate to shopping for The Perfect Gift. Unfortunately this sometimes

**Whatever social debacle that results will quickly clarify the terms of the relationship.**

results in buying fabulous, unique items for people I don't even like, and dumping defeatist gift certificates on loved ones who are hard to shop for. But when creative shopping is part of the fun, 'tis better to give, in my books.

Then again, another part of me wants to advise against it, in case you show up with your magnificent gift and he shows up empty-handed, not wanting to seem forward himself. Worst-case scenario is that he feels terrible, bad, small and cheap because you in your enthusiasm have gone

overboard so early in the relationship. You could possibly avoid this by dropping major hints well ahead of time, or even say outright that "Santa may be dropping something down my chimney for you" (which sounds both gross and suggestive, but you get the idea). Still, it's a risk.

On the upside, whatever social debacle that results will quickly clarify the terms of the relationship. If you've duly delivered the requisite gift-giving hints, and he still shows up empty-handed, you'll know you have someone on your hands who is a

cheapskate, or an emotional trifter, or a clueless clod who can't take a hint, or all of the above. He, meanwhile, may conclude that you are a wonderful angel he's not worthy of, or an emotionally manipulative spendthrift he has to dump immediately.

It's also possible you'll both survive an awkward situation, and have a funny story for years to come. Why not? In the crapshoot that is Christmas, anything is possible. Even miracles.

**Need advice?**  
Email Ellen:  
scene@metronews.ca



## VICKY MOCHAMA



### It's obvious we need to reform the Liberals' electoral-reform process

An all-party committee spent months listening to testimony from over 200 experts on how to reform our electoral system. The committee heard what the experts said and concluded it was time for an expert opinion. In their final recommendation, they said it would be best to ask the public via a referendum.

I'm not in favour of referenda. The question could be as simple as "Does Tim Horton's serve coffee? Yes or No?" and the ensuing public debate would be rancorous and divisive. The Yes camp would call into question the other side's patriotism while the No camp would wonder aloud if Tim Horton's coffee is technically coffee and not a "caffeinated liquid." ("Of course, they serve coffee but what they really serve is unity in a time of uncertainty" is precisely the kind of column someone like me would write.)

There would be Facebook posts, Twitter debates and, oh God, imagine the hashtags. This being the future, a smart woman might say something like "Coffee is not for me," and would be besieged by coffee nationalists calling for her death. In 2013, Scottish comedian Susan Calman made jokes about the Scottish independence referendum for which she was sent death threats. Since I'm invested in a) making jokes about electoral minutiae and b) not dying, a referendum seems like a bad way to go.

The Liberals would rather not have a referendum either.

Except that they too have decided to ask the public. The government will be mailing out postcards to 15 million households; the household will then go online to answer questions about their "values" pertaining to democratic reform. Family Game Night, watch out.

Despite all these gestures toward fact-finding and consultation, the Liberals seem uninterested in electoral reform now that they're in government. You can tell because during question period on Thursday, they decided to let Maryam Monsef make jokes about her colleagues. It did not go well, and she has since apologized. A quick way to let a good conversation is to let earnest people do comedy.

Nonetheless, both options feel rather like punting the decision. Having watched the pound collapse after Brexit, I'd rather not stock up on gold bars and offshore accounts because of a vote on mixed-member proportional versus whatever the other option is. And answering questions online about my voting values is the least exciting activity the Internet has to offer.

A referendum, an online survey — the upshot of both is a lack of leadership and a dearth of decisiveness. After months of expert testimony and a cross-country tour by the minister, there ought to be an answer here. The public has already been consulted: we held an election last year and picked 338 people who should make some decisions.

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## RELATIONSHIPS

### Young couples delay breaking up because they can't make rent alone

**Megan Haynes**  
For Metro Canada



Annette Jones\* knew she and her boyfriend of two years weren't going to last. She'd been unhappy for months, and he was withdrawn. But they shared a large social circle. And she cared deeply for him.

She also couldn't afford to leave. The 30-year-old from Kanata works in the service industry and doesn't make a lot of money. She didn't have much in the way of savings. She worried about making rent for a place on her own.

In short, she was too broke to break up. As the months dragged, she grew bitter and depressed.

"It made me feel helpless — like I was stuck, like I had no autonomy," she says.

The pair did eventually break up, though Jones says the relationship probably lasted six months too long.

"I think we both just sort of ignored the issue because he was also aware that my financial situation would put me in a rough place," she says.

She stayed with friends for a few weeks, and her ex helped her cover first and last month's rent when she found an inexpensive place to live. But she had to dip into her credit, which stressed her out further.

She isn't alone: a recent study from TD Canada found half of millennials and Gen-Xers who were divorced or separated were not financially prepared to live life solo, while another 23 percent delayed a breakup because of unexpected costs.

While millennials in particular are delaying marriage (the average age of marriage is 31 for men, 28 for women, according to Statistics Canada), opting instead for common-law partnerships (the number of common law relationships grew 16 per cent between 2006 and 2011, according to the most recent census), breakups remain an inevitability, though there are few stats tracking decoupling.



But with generally lower wages and the high cost of living in cities, it can put a huge financial strain on couples — particularly those with young children, says Shelley Smith, a financial planner with TD.

"Breaking up is so, so stressful," she

says. Preplanning is the key to alleviating this stress.

While no one plans for a breakup, it's important for couples to come up with contingencies, such as separate savings that both parties contribute equally to, she says. However you save money, it

should leave each party in a position to manage finances solo short-term should something catastrophic (such as a breakup, or worse, death) happen.

Financial autonomy is the key for any relationship, says Shannon Lee Simmons, a financial planner and owner

## WHEN IT ENDS

If you find yourself in a position where you aren't financially prepared to be on your own, here are a few ways to deal with the fallout.

**Build a timeline.** If both parties can co-exist in the same space, such as in different suites in a shared home, having a set time down the road for decoupling can be a good way for both parties to get on their feet financially, says financial planner Shelley Smith.

**Seek financial advice.** Smith says sometimes getting a third-party view on the situation can help. Financial planners can work with clients to identify goals and come up with a plan (as a couple or individually) to achieve those goals.

**Stay with family or friends.** While Simmons acknowledges this isn't always a possibility, when you can tap into a support network, it can not only help ease financial stress but also be a good source of emotional help.

of The New School of Finance. It's not about financial independence, she says, rather both partners need to know what's happening with the money.

"I've seen a lot of time where one person is the financial quarterback of the household — they handle all the finances — and then (the couple) gets divorced and that can be a huge smack in the face for someone who's been hands-off," she says. "It's not even just divorce — what if someone passes away? Do you know enough about how to take the reins (of the household) and run with it?"

And in the end, it's never worth staying in a relationship over money fears: while it can be stressful, there's always a way to manage finances, Simmons says. "Breakups suck, they're hard on everyone, but they're often necessary and people do pop up on the other side OK."

*\*Name has been changed*

## MONEY

### 9 reasons to ditch debt now

**Gail Vaz-Oxlade**  
For Metro Canada



It's impossible to describe how good it feels to owe nobody nuthin'. You can

stop banging your head against the wall for having racked up debt. Just imagine all the money you'll save on Advil.

If you're still working your way to debt-free forever, here are nine reasons why you should keep pushing forward:

**9. You can breathe.** Having had the weight of that debt lifted off your chest, you can breathe easy. It feels sooooo good not having a hippo sitting on you.

**8. You can live in the present.** Satisfy today's needs and wants instead of paying for the past. Have that latte without feeling like a total doofus because the

money should be going to pay off your debt. Want to see a movie, buy a book or take the kids on vacation? Go right ahead. It's your money and you can do whatever you want with it.

**7. You can brag to your kids.** Use your experiences to teach them about money so they avoid the bad-debt traps. You may not have realized just where you were headed when you first decided not to pay off your credit card in full, but now you know. You can speak with authority when it comes to educating your kids about credit and how to use it wisely.

**6. You don't have to worry about**

**late fees and interest costs.** Or where interest rates are going, or how the credit scoring system is jerking people around. You're in the clear. They can all go to hell.

**5. You no longer have to dread going to the mailbox or answering your telephone.**

**4. You can afford to save.** For your children's education, your own retirement, and anything you want to buy. The future looks good.

**3. You can become the financial guru of your gang.** Go ahead and try it. It

feels fabulous to inspire and encourage family and friends to take control of their money and their lives.

**2. You can give.** Y'know, there are only three things you can do with money: spend, save and give. You already know how good it feels to spend; that's how you got into debt in the first place. And it's a great feeling watching your money grow. Giving comes with its own rush.

**1. You can blow a raspberry at every credit app that comes through the door and every telemarketer who offers to lower your interest rate.**

That might be the best feeling of all.



**JOHANNA SCHNELLER**  
**WHAT I'M WATCHING**



Gilmore Girls veers from sappy to referential. CONTRIBUTED

## A discomfiting parade of jokes

**THE SHOW:** *Gilmore Girls: A Year in the Life, Episode 2 (Netflix)*  
**THE MOMENT:** The gay pride discussion

"Two months ago I announced that we would hold the first annual Stars Hollow Gay Pride Parade," Taylor (Michael Winters) says at a town hall meeting. "But there just aren't enough gays in Stars Hollow."

"How is that possible?" asks Lorelai (Lauren Graham).

"We have such cute houses," says Babette (Sally Struthers).

"So far the list is miniscule," Taylor says. "We have Donald."

"Hi, everybody," trills Donald (Sam Pancake), sporting a lavender tee and white blazer, très Miami Vice.

"I have contacted neighbouring mayors to see if they'll lend us some of their gays, but so far not a one has cooperated," Taylor says.

"We leant them our riding mowers one year," a townsman says. "Why can't they lend us their gays?"

I have a weakness for the

song "Feel Like Makin' Love" by Bad Company. It may be cheesy but I can't tell, because I was 13 when it dropped, and it carved a neural pathway of happiness. This is the only way I can explain why people are snifle-smiling through this 10-years-later sequel to *Gilmore Girls*, the series.

I didn't watch the show, so its crazy veers from snappy pop culture references to sappy nostalgia to fairly tough emotional confrontations is somewhat baffling to me. (I find the conversation above embarrassing; others see charming.)

That said, it does radiate a woodstove's worth of warmth, and maybe we need that, with all the cold, sheeting fear we're feeling after the U.S. election. FYI, my fave pop culture reference: Sooki's rooster, Cogburn. Look it up.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

### IN BRIEF

#### Friend's advice for Kanye: Take your time

Teyana Taylor has some practical advice for her mentor, Kanye West.

The singer-dancer, who has performed with the Grammy-winning artist, wants him to take his time recovering.

"Take however much time you need, you know. Time heals all," Taylor told The Associated Press on the red carpet Friday for the VH1 Divas Holiday: Unsilent Night show.

"He's a workaholic. He worked his (expletive) off. And if he needs to get his mind right, then I think every-



Teyana Taylor GETTY IMAGES

body should respect that and let him do that," Taylor said.

Last month, West was hospitalized in Los Angeles after displaying erratic and angry behaviour. It forced him to cancel the remaining 21 dates on his tour.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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## NFL Brady breaks record as Patriots beat Rams

Tom Brady now stands alone when it comes to career wins by an NFL quarterback.

Brady became the league's leader in victories among QBs, earning his 201st by throwing for 269 yards and a touchdown to lead the New England Patriots past the struggling Los Angeles Rams 26-10 on Sunday.

Brady, who was 33 of 46, had tied Peyton Manning last week in a win over the New York Jets.

"It's always been about winning, and I've been very fortunate to be on a lot of great teams," Brady said of reaching the milestone. "I'm just really grateful."

His lone touchdown pass came on a 14-yard pass to



**Tom Brady**  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chris Hogan in the first quarter. LeGarrette Blount scored the game's first touchdown, rumbling for a 43-yard, ankle-breaking score in the first quarter while spinning around safety Maurice Alexander in the process. He finished with 88 yards on 18 carries.

The Patriots (10-2) have won seven of their last eight as they prepare for a tough stretch against three teams with winning records over their final four regular-season games.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## IN BRIEF

### Bournemouth comeback stuns title-chasing Liverpool

Liverpool collapsed to a 4-3 loss at Bournemouth after conceding three goals in final 20 minutes of an English Premier League thriller on Sunday.

Nathan Ake hit the winner in the third minute of injury time, handing title-chasing Liverpool its first loss since Aug. 20 leaving Jurgen Klopp's team four points behind first-place Chelsea.

Liverpool was 3-1 up by the 64th after goals by Sadio Mane, Divock Origi and Emre Can, but two goals in quick succession set up Ake's strike. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Jones defeats Homan to claim women's Canada Cup

Winnipeg's Jennifer Jones downed Ottawa's Rachel Homan 9-5 to win the women's 2016 Canada Cup of Curling title. Jones took a 5-0 lead after a steal of four in the third end and cruised to the third Canada Cup title of her career.

Homan and Jones have both already earned a spot in next year's Olympic curling trials. "At the end of the day, everyone is going to have to play well to win those trials in Ottawa," Jones said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Tiger finds positives in his average return

## GOLF Former world No.1 made lots of birdies but finished 15 of 17

The return of Tiger Woods was more about the big picture than any of his big numbers.

And that started with the sight of that red shirt on Sunday.

Woods grumbled about three more double bogeys in the final round of the Hero World Challenge. Considering how badly he has felt in the 15 months since he last played, he still was able to keep it in perspective.

"It feels good to be back out here playing again, competing and trying to beat the best players in the world," Woods said. "I missed it. I love it."

He even loved some of his golf at Albany. Woods made 24 birdies, the most of anyone this week. He also had six double bogeys, three of them in the final round. The last one on the final hole, his third of the week on the 18th, gave him a 4-over 76. It was the highest score of the tournament, and he finished 15th in the 17-man field.

The other players were not about to measure him by his score — not yet, anyway.

"The whole world is watching a couple of rounds of golf," said British Open champion



Tiger Woods after shooting out of bounds on Sunday in the Bahamas. CHRISTIAN PETERSON/GETTY IMAGES

Henrik Stenson, who finished second to Hideki Matsuyama. "It's great to see him back and healthy and playing. I want to see him up in contention and try to beat him when it matters the most."

"Give him three or four tournaments, maybe six tournaments, maybe around the Masters," he said. "It's easy to overanalyze a very limited amount of golf."

Rarely has a December event attracted this much curiosity. Woods, the dominant player of his generation, had gone 466 days since his previous tournament because of two back sur-

**“It feels good to be back out here playing again.”**  
Tiger Woods

geries. The recovery at times made it difficult for him to walk and led him to wonder if he would ever play again.

"Getting back to this point is beyond anything that I've ever experienced in my lifetime," said Woods, who turns 41 at the end of the month. "The pain issues that I had, it

was rough. Quite frankly, there were some pretty dire times where I just couldn't move."

Woods showed no stress in his swing or in walking five straight rounds, starting with the pro-am. He had plenty of length, at times going after his driver with a little more pop to clear a bunker. He holed a few long putts. He missed a few short ones. At times, he looked like he had never been away for that long. And at times it did.

"It's kind of new to me again, the feel of playing, the feel of adrenaline in my system, hitting shots," Woods said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**THE TOP 6@6**  
LAST NIGHT ON 101.3 VIRGIN RADIO:

- 6 Shaun Frank ft. Ashe  
Let You Get Away
- 5 Gnash ft. Olivia O'Brien  
I Hate U, I Love U
- 4 Drake  
Fake Love
- 3 Jon Bellion  
All Time Low
- 2 Shawn Mendes  
Mercy
- 1 Fifth Harmony  
That's My Girl

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

# Fun Margherita Pizza Waffles



PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

**Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh**  
For Metro Canada

When Pizza met Waffles; it's a love story between our favourite-ever foods and it ends with an irresistible dinner on your plate. Cue applause.

**Ready in 15 minutes**  
Prep time: 5 minutes  
Cook time: 10 minutes  
Serves 4

**Ingredients**

- 3 cups spelt flour
- 3 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 2 1/2 cups milk
- 1 cup cubed mozzarella
- freshly chopped basil
- 1/4 cup fresh shaved Parmesan cheese

• 1 cup marinara sauce

**Directions**

1. In a large bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt and garlic powder. Add the milk; stir until blended.
2. Heat your waffle iron to desired temperature.
3. Ladle the batter into pre-heated waffle iron and sprinkle with 1/4 cup mozzarella and basil. Cook the waffles until golden and crisp.
4. Serve immediately with an extra sprinkle of mozzarella, Parmesan cheese and a side of marinara sauce for dipping.

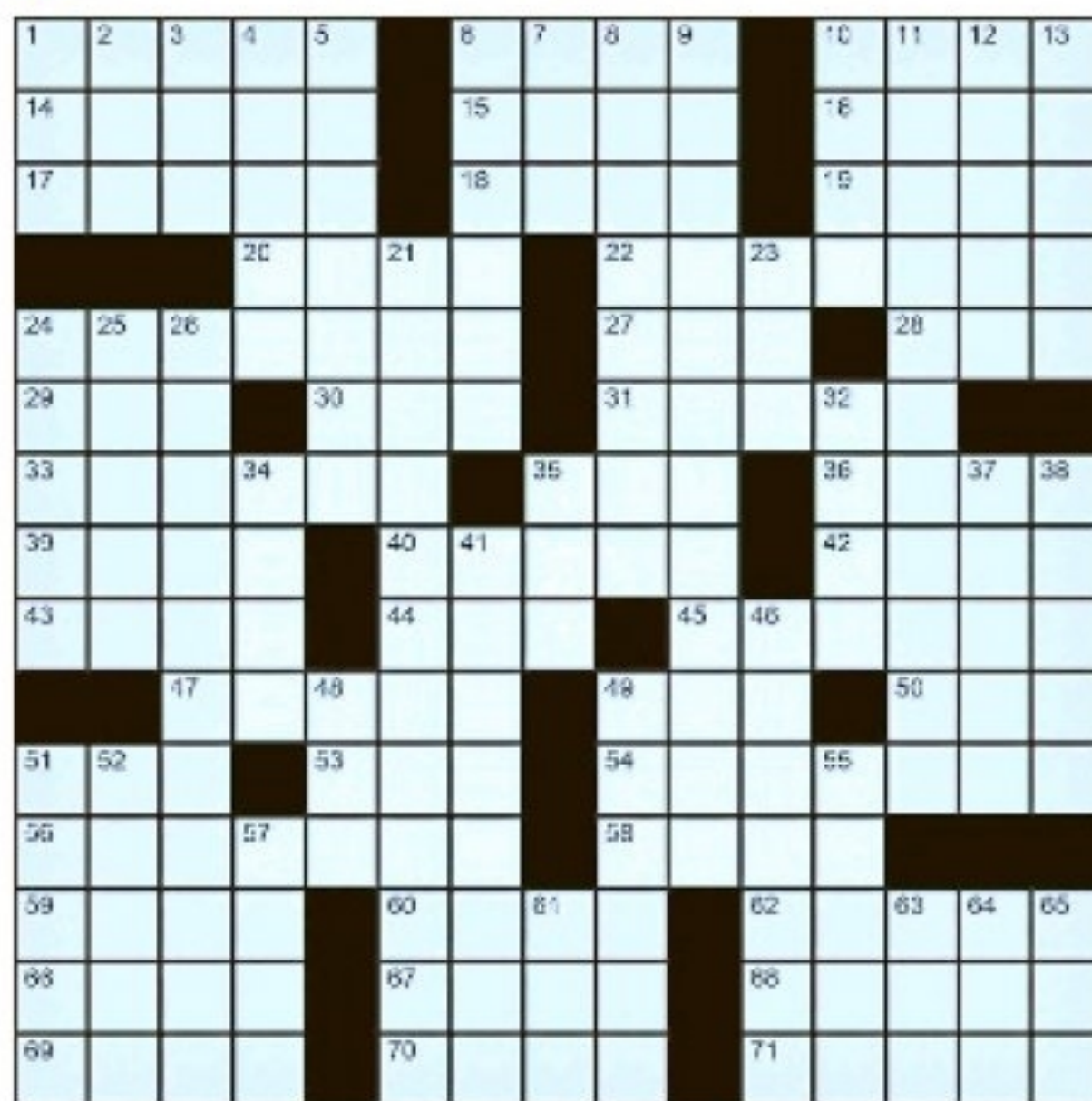
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## CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

**ACROSS**

1. "Close but no \_"
6. Anti-apartheid activist Desmond
10. Chew at
14. Famous beach in Australia
15. Preachy positive
16. Puerto \_
17. Pre-surgery cleanse
18. Tussle
19. Mr. Stravinsky
20. Drip-drop reason
22. Elvis: Grace-land's location
24. Bitter
27. Classic range cooker company
28. Ka-boom-er!
29. Tic-Tac-Toe loser
30. Raggedy Ann's hair
31. Big name in dance in Saint Petersburg
33. Saskatchewan village; or, "CHiPs" star Larry
35. "For \_ a jolly good..."
36. Told a tale
39. Family suffix in zoology
40. \_ your own course
42. \_ \_ other (Without equals)
43. Mr. Saarinen of architecture
44. Asleep
45. Figurine
47. Old Testament hymn
49. Rock logo insurance co.
50. City in Florida, briefly
51. Kingston Trio hit
53. Science eggs



54. Get even more suds off
56. Hurry up and enter: 3 wds.
58. "Peculiar"-meaning prefix
59. Actor, Corbin \_
60. Mineral deposit
62. "Are we still \_ Saturday?" (Weekend-

- planner's query)
66. Ailments
67. Ms. Tyler's
68. "U" of UHF
69. Knight's adventurous tale
70. Modify manuscripts
71. Actor, Max von Who?

**DOWN**

1. TV network
2. World games org.
3. Slash's rock gr.
4. \_ Contemporary (Music category)
5. Alfonso of "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air"
6. Assigned to a chore
7. Li'l baseball official
8. Coffee preparer's opposite: 2 wds.
9. Not officially recorded
10. Film set job
11. The painting at #21-Down is featured on the cover of what

- 1973 Bruce Cockburn album?: 2 wds.
12. "Does anybody have \_ \_?" (Pre-game toss query)
13. Brooklyn Bridge tune: " \_ That Could Happen"
21. Canadian artist (b.1920 - d.2013) of 1954 iconic painting Horse and Train: 2 wds.
23. Wreck
24. Mr. Mandel of "America's Got Talent"
25. Rusty stuff, Iron \_
26. Green energy additions to homes: 2 wds.
32. Patron saint of Norway
34. Corp. leaders
35. Chapeau: English
37. Tech sch. grads
38. "Republic of \_"
41. Man-like robot
46. Raging
48. Get an " \_ \_" as per school assignments
49. Man of the collar
51. Canadian chocolate bar: 2 wds.
52. Bridal fabric
55. "If \_ Had a Brain": The Scarecrow's theme
57. Dethrone
61. Gladiator's 506
63. Bouquet delivery letters
64. \_ Medonte (Ontario township)
65. Sore

## \* IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

**Aries** March 21 - April 20  
This is a great day to schmooze and enjoy the company of others. However, postpone important decisions until tomorrow. Shop for gas or food only.

**Taurus** April 21 - May 21  
Details about your personal life might be more public than you expect them to be today. Someone is checking you out. Postpone important decisions until tomorrow.

**Gemini** May 22 - June 21  
You might want to make travel plans or explore matters in medicine and the law. Do your research and homework, but wait until tomorrow to initiate any action.

**Cancer** June 22 - July 23  
This is a poor day to make decisions about shared property, taxes, debt, inheritances and insurance matters. Just do your homework and get the facts.

**Leo** July 24 - Aug. 23  
You will have to go more than halfway when dealing with others today because the Moon is opposite your sign. This is a good day to be social. Keep things light.

**Virgo** Aug. 24 - Sept. 23  
Be careful at work today, because this is a bad day to volunteer for anything or agree to anything important. Just keep your head down and your powder dry.

**Libra** Sept. 24 - Oct. 23  
This is a wonderful, creative, fun-loving day! Use today's energy for artistic projects, schmoozing with others and enjoying playful activities with children.

**Scorpio** Oct. 24 - Nov. 22  
This is a good day to play hooky and just stay at home. Don't shop for anything other than gas and food. Don't make important decisions.

**Sagittarius** Nov. 23 - Dec. 21  
This is a loosey-goosey day. Short trips, errands and conversations with everyone will be pleasant. Don't expect too much from others or yourself. Just coast.

**Capricorn** Dec. 22 - Jan. 20  
Avoid important financial decisions today. If shopping, buy gas, food or minor things only — no major purchases.

**Aquarius** Jan. 21 - Feb. 19  
You might feel more emotional than usual today, because the Moon is in your sign. You will also feel a bit disconnected and indecisive. No worries, because this feeling is gone by tomorrow.

**Pisces** Feb. 20 - March 20  
People are impressed with you. However, take note: Don't volunteer for anything today, and do not agree to anything important. Postpone important decisions until tomorrow.

## CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

				3		9		5
	7		2				1	
					1			8
	4			9	3	6		
9			8	5	4			3
				4				
8								
	9				7		2	
7		1		6				

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9	1	5	2	3	4	6	7	8
4	7	2	8	5	6	3	1	9
3	8	6	9	7	1	2	4	5
7	9	1	4	6	2	5	8	3
2	6	3	1	8	5	7	9	4
5	4	8	7	9	3	1	6	2
8	3	7	6	2	9	4	5	1
6	5	4	3	1	8	9	2	7
1	2	9	5	4	7	8	3	6





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